

VIEWS OF CONSOLIDATION. THE FRUITS OF THE WORLD.

LET US HAVE THE GREATER NEW-YORK.

BROOKLYN CANNOT SUPPORT HER INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE AND REQUIRES THE ADVANTAGES OF UNION.

To the Editor of the Tribune.

Sir: Brooklyn, the pleasant city of homes, possesses but few of the natural advantages of an independent municipality. In the first place, it has no connection with the continent except through New-York. With the exception of a little annex boat that runs to the Pennsylvania Railroad at Jersey City, all comers and goers must pass through New-York, the only gateway to the outer world. Brooklyn is imprisoned by the sea on one side and New-York on the other, and hence is a natural portion of the great city through whose open doors its people must come and go.

If from the City Hall, New-York, you describe a circle ten miles in diameter, you take in all of Brooklyn except the Twenty-sixth Ward (East New-York), and out New-York about Seventy-fourth-st., leaving more than half of Manhattan Island mere remnants from the business centre of New-York than any portion of Brooklyn. Bearing these facts in mind, is it any wonder that Brooklyn, with its million of inhabitants, has no Board of Trade, no Produce Exchange, no Stock Exchange, no Clearing House, no hotels and no morning papers of its own? Why should it have them? It has no need of them. It is a resident part of the great commercial city of New-York, which provides it with these useful institutions, and takes all the credit, all the prestige and more than its share of the profit. In Brooklyn every morning a hundred thousand men and a hundred thousand women are reading New-York papers advertising New-York business and New-York goods; and this is natural, for every morning and every evening rivers of men and women—bankers and merchants, and clerks and others in every vocation—flow to and from the great bridges and a dozen ferries with as much regularity and as ceaselessly as the tides of the sea.

The natural disadvantage in the extent of fruit culture has been a matter of a few years, and is wholly confined to this country, as throughout Europe the volume of production is declining rapidly.

It is rather strange therefore that the Golden State of California has under cultivation and bearing probably enough trees and vines to supply from their production within five years the entire United States and Europe with all the fresh, dried and canned fruits that can be consumed. Hence the agricultural importance of that State not only to our own country, but to Europe. An evidence of the fact that the produce which has heretofore existed against California fruits on account of a alleged lack of flavor is being dispelled as can be shown by the increase in consumption in that State's fruit products during the last five years in the various markets of the United States.

California looks these natural advantages, how can consolidation help her? It certainly cannot change natural conditions. No, but it can give her what she is justly entitled to, the local benefit of the large taxable resources of New-York, a part of which Brooklyn has earned, and, indeed, you may say, has created. More than 25,000 of Brooklyn's taxpayers hire and occupy offices or stores or warehouses in New-York, creating a demand for this kind of valuable property, which immensely adds to its assessed wealth, and every dollar of this tax fund which Brooklyn has created and sustained is applied to the municipality of New-York, giving her better paved streets, larger and better paid Fire and Police departments, and adding to her local prestige and power. New-York has vast taxable resources in banks and trust companies, insurance companies and other financial institutions to which Brooklyn gives large support, and from which she receives not one cent's worth of local benefit.

The American Sugar Refining Company and the Standard Oil Company are the largest manufacturers of their kind in the world, but every dollar's worth of their raw material, as well as of their refined product, is bought and sold in New-York, and all this money passes into the New-York banks. Indeed, nearly all of Brooklyn's numerous factories have their warehouses and sales departments in New-York, and this financial business, which would be done in Brooklyn if she were a commercial city, adds to the commercial wealth of our adjacent metropolis. Brooklyn surely needs and ought to have her share of the tax fund which is the product of her own industry and the wealth of her own creation, and it can only be had by consolidation—not consolidation on any terms, but on the broad basis of a just assessment and a fair and equitable adjustment of valuations.

Brooklyn is at present taxed almost to the point of consolidation. Her citizens and streets are taxed to the limit. Her assessed valuation is less than \$60,000,000, and New-York, assessed on the same basis, is taxed over \$12,000,000 annually, and New-York about \$40,000,000. Consolidation would give Brooklyn better service in all her city departments with a lower tax rate, while the State of New-York would be brought into increased Brooklyn's bonded indebtedness has about reached the legal limit of 10 per cent of her assessed valuation, while New-York lacks nearly \$60,000,000 of teaching.

The economy in combining the departments of the two cities is obvious. The policemen and firemen of the two cities would be under one management, and all would be taxed at the same rate. Her assessed valuation on the basis of 70 per cent, but little more than \$60,000,000, and New-York, assessed on the same basis, would be taxed over \$12,000,000 annually, and New-York about \$40,000,000. Consolidation would give Brooklyn better service in all her city departments with a lower tax rate, while the State of New-York would be brought into increased Brooklyn's bonded indebtedness has about reached the legal limit of 10 per cent of her assessed valuation, while New-York lacks nearly \$60,000,000 of teaching.

From a commercial standpoint, Brooklyn has everything to gain and nothing to lose by consolidation. She is a whole, compact part of New-York, a part of her body, and part of her muscle, and her sisterly part of her brain. Brooklyn loves her local institutions, her churches, her schools, and all the traditions of her past. She is a part of the unwritten laws of trade and commerce are a thousand times more potent factors in shaping the destiny of a city than all the embankments of stone, brick or iron. She is a part of the life of New-York, and a blood of a municipality, knows no other loyalty and no other law than that which begins and ends in dollars and cents, and Brooklyn can no more change the color of her skin than the color of the Civic pride, or no civic pride, tens of thousands of her citizens do their shopping in New-York, and they are seen at night coming from the Bridge and all the way down to the port of New-York, while the New-York stores deliver daily thousands of packages at their doors. New-York will afford to all in built-up more East River bridges for them to cross, and thereby carry more rich blood to her heart.

If consolidation is largely a question of sentiment with the good citizens of Brooklyn, it is hard to win them over to the view that New-York is not inferior. In commercial importance, New-York will soon be the first, whether Brooklyn is annexed or not. Her hand is bound, and she is compelled to follow the lead of all the other cities of the United States combined. Her name and her prestige are known and felt at every point on the round globe where the flag of freedom flies. The spirit of the Civic pride, or no civic pride, tens of thousands of her citizens do their shopping in New-York, and they are seen at night coming from the Bridge and all the way down to the port of New-York, while the New-York stores deliver daily thousands of packages at their doors. New-York will afford to all in built-up more East River bridges for them to cross, and thereby carry more rich blood to her heart.

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